

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: POPCOM

SUBJ: POPCOM - 3RD SPECIAL SESSION: WORLD POPULATION PLAN
OF ACTION (WPPA) - 2

REF: USUN 834

1. POPCOM COMPLETED MARCH 11 THE SECTION-BY-SECTION DISCUSSION OF THE WPPA. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO MARCH 8 SESSION, DISCUSSION WAS LESS IDEOLOGICAL AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVE. THE CONCEPT OF TARGETS FOR BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN WPPA APPEARS TO HAVE SURVIVED MILD CRITICISMS; SPECIFIC FIGURES, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO CHANGE IN FINAL DRAFT. LAST REMAINING BUSINESS ON WPPA IS STATEMENT OF GUIDANCE TO SECRETARIAT ON FINAL REDRAFTING OF THE PLAN, TO BE TAKEN UP MARCH 14.

2. THE THIRD AND FINAL DRAFT OF WPPA WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE REDRAFTING WITH EXTENSIVE USE OF AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND BY DELEGATIONS. PART IV OF PLAN ON THE "ROLE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" WILL BE SPLIT INTO SEPARATE SECTIONS. ON BALANCE, INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS OF POPCOM MEMBERS ON WPPA ACTED TO EXPAND, RATHER THAN TRIM,
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THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT.

3. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON NEED TO LINK THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE WPPA WITH PERIODIC REVIEWS OF OTHER INTER-NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION. OBSERVER FROM PRCHINA INFORMED THE COMMISSION OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED PARTICIPATION IN THE WP CONFERENCE. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED A LONG STATEMENT ON POPULATION PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS, LARGELY REPETITIVE OF CHINA'S EARLIER STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT AT UN FORUMS (TEXT POUCHED). CHINA CONSIDERED IT "INAPPROPRIATE AND UNFEASIBLE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE TO LAY DOWN UNIFIED REGULATIONS" IN MATTERS OF "POPULATION POLICY AND TARGET, CENSUS AND THE PUBLICATION OF STATISTICS." THUS, CONTINUED SENSITIVITY OVER NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IN MATTERS OF POPULATION POLICY AND PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS FEARS THAT INADEQUATE HUMAN RESOURCES WILL IMPEDE DEVELOPMENT, UNDERLIE MOST OF OPPOSITION TO ANY OVERLY EXPLICIT UN RECOMMENDATION ON SLOWING POPULATION GROWTH. USSR, IN GENERALLY COOPERATIVE MOOD, ARGUED FOR GREATER ATTENTION TO EFFECTS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON FERTILITY, NOT MERELY OF FERTILITY ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ECAUDOR ASKED FOR EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF VARIETY OF DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD, NOT JUST RAPID POPULATION GROWTH. OBSERVER FROM MEXICO URGED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO ASSURE SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR MIGRANTS. HE ALSO MENTIONED PARENTHETICALLY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE INCREASED OUTFLOW OF MIGRANT LABOR FROM MEXICO.

DENMARK, JAPAN, AND THE K DEEMED TOO SPECIFIC SECRETARIAT' PROPOSALS FOR REDUCING MORTALITY (PARA 10-12 OF 292/REV. 1). SWEDEN ASKED FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING FOR REDUCTION OF MATERNAL AND CHILD MORTALITY.

TURKEY AND EGYPT CONSIDERED PROPOSED 10-POINT REDUCTION IN BIRTH RATE BY 1985 (PARA 22 OF 292/REV.1) TO BE UNATTAINABLE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES BELIEVED THAT

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LDCS WITH BIRTH RATES BELOW 40 PER 1,000, AS WELL AS ABOVE, SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER REDUCING THEM BY 1985.

US SUPPORTED SWEDISH SUGGESTION TO TAKE NOTE OF POPULATION GROWTH IN MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN WPPA AND DREW ATTENTION, ONCE AGAIN, TO US GOALS SET FORTH IN ITS PROPOSAL (CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER 7, P. 5) FOR THE STABILIZATION OF POPULATIONS IN DCS AS WELL AS IN LDCS. US GOALS WERE FULLY

RESTATED FOR THE RECORD.

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